

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.
Updated and amended text supplied by George Watola, October, 2011.
Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Ruff: p 151.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (Linnaeus 1758), Vagrant (17)
9/12/1984 Colac Bay, Riverton, Southland

The first confirmed record was in Southland in 1984, 20 years after a possible sighting on the Manukau seen by Ross McKenzie and N.B. MacKenzie in 1964. [Although clearly unusual, the description was insufficient to rule out other species]. W.J. Cooper and seven other observers found the Southland bird, but it was not positively identified until the 16th March 1985, four months after its discovery (Miskelly et al. 1985). Two Ruffs were also found in December 1984 at Lake Ellesmere.